

Green Dog Parks & Off-Leash Hours

Parks not listed do **not** have off-leash hours

ALL HOURS SUBJECT TO CHANGE
PLEASE CHECK SIGNAGE

Off-Leash Hours

Dawn to 9:00 a.m.

- Boylston Street Playground (Boylston St.)
- Coolidge Playground (Columbia St.)
- Corey Hill Park (Summit Ave.)
- Daniel F. Ford Playground at Emerson Garden (Waverly St.)
- Jean B. Waldstein Playground (Dean Rd.)
- Lotta Bradburn Schick Park (Addington Rd.)
- Margaret E. Robinson Playground (Cypress & Franklin St.)
- Soule Recreation Center Upper Field (Hammond St.)

Off-Leash Hours

Dawn to 1:00 p.m.

- Amory Playground (Amory St.)
- Daniel W. Warren, Jr. Playground (Eliot St.)
- Griggs Park (Griggs Rd.)

Off-Leash Hours

Dawn to 1:00 p.m., March through November

Dawn to Dusk, December through February

- Brookline Avenue Playground (Brookline Ave.)
- Harry Downes Field (Highland Rd.)
Note: No dogs allowed in fenced portion of park with track.
- Larz Anderson Park (Newton St.)
Note: Top of the hill area, Avon Street side ONLY. No dogs allowed in children's play area, pond, garden area or BBQ sites/shelter.

Dogs are not allowed on any fields when the ground is thawing,
generally during the entire month of March.

Please heed Field Closed Signage.

The Green Dog Program logo will be displayed in
designated parks with program hours.

January 2015

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why are off-leash hours occasionally suspended?

A: During permitted activities (school group activities, sports games, etc.), dogs must be on-leash for their safety and the comfort of other park users. When Parks crews are working in the parks, dogs must be on-leash for the safety of both the animals and the crews. Finally, fields may be completely closed when they are wet due to inclement weather, if heavy rain is anticipated, during the spring thaw, or for other reasons related to maintaining healthy fields. We post field closed signs, and you can call the Green Dog hotline 24 hours a day at 879-4850 to hear a recording if fields are closed.

Q: I'm a dog walker. Can I bring my clients to play and exercise off-leash?

A: Dog walkers are required to register for the program and will receive a permit for their business. In addition, all individual dogs must be registered to participate. Everyone, including dog walkers, is limited to 3 off-leash dogs at a time. Dogs must be under voice control and in sight at all times.

Q: Why do I need to license my dog?

A: Massachusetts state law requires that all dogs be licensed, and have a current rabies vaccination. Licensing is critical to ensuring the health of our canine friends and other people, and can help identify your dog if they become lost. For more information, contact the Town Clerk's office at 730-2010.

Q: Why do I need to pay a fee to participate?

A: The Green Dog program is an optional recreation program and a service to the community. Fees are charged similar to other recreation programs, and are used by the Town to cover costs incurred by the program, including park ranger services, assistance and oversight in the parks; program administration and tags; web updates, informational materials and signage; communication and outreach; monitoring of park conditions; evaluation of program usage; and program improvements.

Q: How do I get more information or make suggestions about the program?

A: The Park and Recreation Commission, Parks and Open Space Division, and Recreation Department all welcome your questions and comments. Please visit our website for further information and updates at www.brooklinema.gov/GreenDog or contact us at 879-5650 or greendog@brooklinema.gov.

Q: How do I report violations?

A: To report off-leash or other violations, particularly aggressive dogs, contact the Brookline Police Department 24 hours a day at 730-2222.

Town of Brookline

GreenDog Program

Under supervision of the

**Brookline Park and Recreation
Commission**



870 Hammond Street
Brookline, MA 02467
Phone 617-879-5650

www.brooklinema.gov/GreenDog
Follow us on Twitter @BrooklineDogs



What is the Green Dog Program?

The Green Dog Program is an innovative approach to meeting our dogs' and dog owners' desire to have time off-leash, while sharing the spaces with other park users in our urban community. Brookline has 14 off-leash areas across the Town, with specific off-leash hours established by the Park and Recreation Commission. Dog owners are allowed to play with their dogs off-leash, during these designated times, after registering for the program and following the program rules and regulations.

The Park and Recreation Commission is a policy-making board, staffed with volunteers appointed by the Board of Selectmen, to oversee and provide year-round indoor and outdoor recreation activities, and to oversee park planning, renovations, and use. The Commission created the Green Dog Program in response to requests from residents who expressed a desire for dog owners to not only enjoy, but also serve as better stewards of our parks. The Commission developed the program with input from a Green Dog Advisory Committee and many enthusiastic residents, following a thorough analysis of park usage throughout the Town.

The Green Dog Program benefits everyone! Dogs get needed exercise and socialization often leading to better behavior, owners get to socialize with fellow dog owners and park visitors, and other park users still have time to play and relax in the parks. The outcome is a happier community. We have thousands of park users, and sharing our parks helps us maximize the use and enjoyment we all receive from our open spaces.

The Park and Recreation Commission is happy to be able to offer the Green Dog program, but they also have a responsibility to address any issues promptly and appropriately. The Commission has the authority to temporarily or permanently close, or modify the boundaries of off-leash areas for any reason including the following: environmental damage, failure to comply with rules and regulations, public health or safety, or serious unanticipated problems affecting other park users. Violators are subject to incremental fines, removal from the off-leash area, and suspension of off-leash privileges.

How does the Program work?

Joining the program is easy. Follow these simple steps to get you and your dog involved:

Before you go to a park:

- 1) License your dog and make sure vaccinations are current, and **register for the Green Dog program and pay appropriate fee to participate.*** Put license/Green Dog tag and identification on dog's collar.
- 2) Make sure your dog is under voice control (dog responds to and obeys your verbal commands).
- 3) Find a park near you with off-leash hours.
- 4) Bring along your dog's leash and bags for waste.

At the park:

- 1) Keep your dog on-leash until you are in the park. Keep your leash on hand at all times.
- 2) Check for park closed signs, wet fields, crews working in the park, or permitted activities, all of which mean off-leash hours are suspended.
- 3) Pick up after your dog and encourage others to do the same.
- 4) Keep your dog in sight at all times and under voice control.
- 5) Be mindful of your dog so that other park visitors are not anxious about their safety. Many people do not like unfamiliar dogs approaching them, and only you know whether your dog is friendly to other people.
- 6) Enjoy some off-leash fun with your dog!

Green Dog Program Annual Fees*:

Resident Fee per Dog	\$50
Non-Resident Fee per Dog	\$100
Brookline Commercial Dog Walker Fee	\$100
Non-Brookline Commercial Dog Walker Fee	\$200

All dogs must be registered for the program to participate, including dogs being taken off-leash by dog walkers.

Guest Permit Fees*:

Two-Day Permit Fee per Dog	\$5
One-Week Permit Fee per Dog	\$10

*Annual fees cover the calendar year. Tags will expire at the end of December, and must be renewed each year. You can register annually when you license your dog or renew your license in Brookline. After licensing or for non-residents, dog walkers, or guest permits call 879-5650 or visit our website, www.brooklinema.gov/GreenDog.

Rules and Regulations

1) Know When to Keep Your Dog On-Leash

- ◆ Dogs are allowed off-leash **ONLY** in designated areas. Keep your dog leashed when entering or exiting the off-leash area.
- ◆ Off-leash hours are suspended when there are permitted or school-based special activities in a park.
- ◆ There are no off-leash hours when parks and fields are saturated from rain, or thawing in the spring. Please keep dogs off fields in these conditions. During and after rainfall, topsoil is 20 times more vulnerable to compaction.
- ◆ Dogs must be leashed when Parks Division crews are working in the parks.

2) Be Respectful to Other Park Users and Neighbors

- ◆ Clean up after your dog in off and on-leash areas. It's a courtesy and it's the law in Brookline.
- ◆ Maintain sight and voice control of your dog. You must be able to see your dog when off-leash, and maintain effective verbal control of your dog. You are personally liable for any damage or injury your dog inflicts or receives.
- ◆ Excessive barking is not allowed. Please play quietly, especially in the early morning hours.
- ◆ Dogs are not allowed in playground areas, sand boxes, hard or clay tennis courts, or basketball courts, and must not damage fields by digging.
- ◆ Dogs must not chase or disturb wildlife or enter sanctuaries or sensitive open spaces, such as shrub and flower beds.

3) Ensure Your Dog Meets the Criteria

- ◆ **Dogs must be registered with the Green Dog program and must be wearing a current Green Dog tag to participate.**
- ◆ Aggressive dogs are not permitted on or off-leash. Dogs who exhibit aggressiveness towards people, other dogs, or wildlife will not be allowed to participate in the Program.
- ◆ The number of dogs per person is limited to three.
- ◆ Dogs must be 6 months old to participate in the program.
- ◆ Dogs in heat are not allowed off-leash.
- ◆ Dogs must be licensed, vaccinated, and healthy (no contagious conditions, diseases, or parasites).
- ◆ All dogs (and their owners) are subject to Section 8.6.7(a) of the Town's General By-Laws, which provide, in part, that "the person in charge of a dog inside a designated off leash area must control the animal so that it does not disturb the surrounding area by barking or other action and so that it does not disturb or threaten others using the designated off leash areas and the area surrounding the designated off leash area."